Comment on GN 25-133

RE: Removal of barriers to trade.

1) **Delete the word reassess and replace with reaccredit.**

2) **Return renewal assessment activities back to the designating authorities.**

The FCC's interpretation of 47 CFR 2.962(c)(7) on reassessment of TCB's and equivalently for test laboratories is currently egregiously legalistic. A recent policy change was imposed on all TCBs and Labs changed the ability for FCC to accept TCB and Laboratory updates for designating authorities and pulled the entire overview back into the FCC.

The interpretation currently imposed on reassessment is that the date of the reassessment is based on the completion date of the completion of the accreditation checklist, or completion of the accreditors assessment, or the completion of the scope of accreditation. By necessity the order of activities occurs with first the completion of the FCC checklist, then the accreditation assessment and then the scope of accreditation. There may be several weeks or months between each action, and if the assessment is protracted due to deficiencies needing to be closed (perhaps not even related to FCC testing), the scope of accreditation can be delayed.

In most cases, the scope of accreditation is completed several weeks prior to the expiration date of the current expiration. The FCC's overly legalistic interpretation states that the new expiration date is the date of the 'assessment,' not the date of the scope of accreditation. The practical impact to this interpretation is that the 2-year accreditation cycle is unnecessarily truncated by several weeks thus creating a new target date for the next accreditation cycle.

For example, CKCCS, being responsible to update accreditations early enough to allow time for FCC to review the renewal application process by its accreditation expiration in March 31 2025, we started the renewal accreditation in November of 2024. The FCC checklist was completed in October, and the accreditors final determination was completed in January. The FCC's new designation process was completed around March 25th 2025. The FCC updated the expiration date for the TCB designation to January, 2027. This effectively changes the accreditation renewal requirements to significantly less than 2 years, which creates an unfair barrier to trade. The barrier occurs when TCBs and Labs are forced to close doors, lay off employees, or not perform normal duties due to the change in FCC policy interpretation.

The continuously moving target for responsible TCBs and Laboratory designation deadlines is unsupportable by accreditation bodies; there are not enough assessors to support less than 24 month accreditation reassessments. Put simply the authorized accreditors cannot support the FCC's current interpretation.

While we understand the FCC does not want to extend the reassessment beyond 2 years, and fully support the protection that the FCC desires to impose. TCBs and Labs having expiring scopes of accreditations should still have their designations suspended until their scope of accreditation can be updated.

The FCC needs to delete the interpretation on reassessment and instead focus on accreditation. The FCC needs to simply keep the renewal deadlines 2 years from the prior scope of accreditation, allowing a consistent date cycle to be retained instead of forcing a

regressing assessment cycle date. This will simplify the renewal assessment procedures and decrease barriers to trade.

The FCC needs to return the designation actions to the authorized designating authorities. In the prior renewal assessment procedures, the designating authorities were allowed to directly update assessments. This allowed FCC to focus on its role in oversight instead of directly reviewing all applications. Currently, the FCC is reviewing all designation applications creating more burden for TCBs and Labs and demanding more time and cost for FCC staff to perform the duties. By keeping the designation actions with the authorized designating authorities, the FCC could free up valuable resources and still retain control in its oversight duties.

Respectfully submitted,
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